

February 27, 2023

Written testimony submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee in support of HB 6633:

AN ACT CONCERNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, and members of the Housing Committee:

I am Ruth Alcabes and live in West Hartford. I'm a member of Congregation P'nai Or of West Hartford, and my congregation is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), a broad-based organization of 49 faith institutions working together on this issue.

I am writing in support of HB 6633. This bill will make our suburbs more inclusive places to live and contribute to economic growth and revitalization of our cities. Fair Share holds the promise of tremendous economic development for Connecticut in general. Modeled after successful legislation in New Jersey and informed by Raj Chetty's research on economic opportunity, this bill has the potential to generate over:

- 240,000 units of sorely needed market rate and affordable units over 10 years
- 63,000 jobs (full time equivalents sustained for ten years)
- \$9.8 Billion in state and local tax revenue
- \$47 Billion in income for Connecticut residents

Connecticut is one of the most racially segregated states in the nation. I believe that it is important for people to live in communities with a diverse population, but segregation denies all our children, as well as adults, access to the diversity that is our strength and our future.

I believe that it is a moral imperative to break down barriers that cause racial and economic segregation. However, this bill is not only the right thing to do to address Connecticut's affordable housing and housing segregation crises, it is also the smart thing to do to boost our economy overall, especially as we emerge from a global health pandemic. This bill will provide of a set of tools and laws that make sure our zoning and planning systems are fair and equitable. For all these reasons, I support Fair Share Planning and Zoning. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ruth Alcabes
30 Seneca Road
West Hartford, CT 06117